00360

1972/05/02

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EYES ONLY VIA CAS CHANNELS (BUNKER)

TRUE DTG 020922Z MAY 72

TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

CITE: WHS2057

REF: SAIGON 0081

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SAIGON 0081.

I AM SURE THAT THIEU IS MORE AWARE THAN WE OF THE SHORTCOMINGS OF HIS COMMANDERS. AT THIS JUNCTURE, HE WILL NEED ALL OF THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT WE CAN MUSTER. WE MUST BE SURE THAT OUR OWN DISAPPOINTMENTS IN ARVN PERFORMANCES DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER WORSENING OF THE SITUATION.

IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT I AM ABOUT IN PARIS TODAY, THERE IS DANGER THAT THIEU MIGHT WELL CONSTRUE HIS DISCUSSION WITH YOU AND ABRAMS AS PRELUDE TO US ACTION WITH OTHER SIDE WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE THE CHARACTER OF US SUPPORT. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU AGAIN URGENTLY SEE THIEU AND REASSURE HIM OF OUR FULL SUPPORT ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF MY DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS TODAY. YOU

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E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6
MR95-79, #6; NSC ltr. 6/25/96
By LH NARA, Date 1/22/97

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SHOULD ALSO ASSURE HIM THAT WE WILL KEEP HIM PROMPTLY AND FULLY APPRISED OF THE OUTCOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO DEVIATIONS FROM THE GAME PLAN THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DESCRIBED TO HIM.

PLEASE ADVISE.

WARM REGARDS.

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